



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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25 February 2016

Clerk to LegCo Panel on Food Safety and
Environmental Hygiene
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn.: Miss Josephine SO)
(Fax: 2509 9055)

Dear Miss So,

**Concern about a food poisoning case
relating to the consumption of wild yellow boletus**

Thank you for your letter of 11 February 2016 referring to us Hon Steven HO Chun-yin's letter dated 5 February 2016 to the Chairman of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene. Regarding Hon HO's concern over a food poisoning case involving the consumption of wild yellow boletus, our response is as follows:

Case history and follow-up investigation

On 3 February 2016, the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department received a referral from the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health concerning a suspected food poisoning case involving three persons who

had eaten wild yellow boletus. One of the male patients sought medical consultation and none of them required hospitalisation. They have been in stable condition all along.

Investigation from CHP revealed that the concerned uncooked mushroom samples contained a mixture of edible species and inedible or poisonous species. Product details are as follows:

Product name:	CanBest - Wild Yellow boletus
Importer and packer:	Joinluck Corporation Limited
Net weight:	60 grams per pack
Best-before date:	30 December 2016

Follow-up actions

CFS immediately conducted field investigation at the department store concerned in Tai Po and instructed the store to stop the sale and remove from shelves the affected batch of the product. CFS also requested the importer and packer of the product concerned to stop sale and recall the affected batch of the product. Based on the distribution information provided by the importer and packer, CFS contacted other vendors which had purchased the affected product and confirmed that they had already stopped sale and removed from shelves the incriminated product. CFS will liaise with the importer and packer concerned to arrange for the destruction of the recalled product.

A press statement calling on members of the public to stop consuming the concerned batch of prepackaged yellow boletus suspected to have been mixed with inedible/poisonous species of mushrooms was released by CFS on 3 February 2016. A hotline manned by the importer and packer to handle enquiries about the recall from members of the public was announced at the same time. The local trade was also alerted to the incident immediately.

As investigation showed that the affected mushrooms were imported from the Mainland, CFS had alerted the relevant Mainland authorities to the incident. CFS has also enhanced surveillance on mushroom toxin to protect food safety. No other local food poisoning cases related to consumption of the affected product have been received so far.

Publicity and health education

CFS has all along been advising the public not to pick and eat wild mushrooms for the sake of safety through various channels including webpages, Facebook, press releases, posters, etc. CFS advises public not to buy mushroom products which are suspected of containing unknown species; not to buy mushrooms which look unhygienic (with growing substrates left with the product) or show signs of spoilage (with coloured spots/abnormal smell/slime, etc); to wash and cook mushrooms thoroughly before consumption; and to seek medical treatment immediately if mushroom poisoning is suspected.

CFS will continue to follow up and take appropriate action to safeguard food safety and public health.

Yours sincerely,



(Ricky Cheng)
for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c.: Controller, Centre for Food Safety
(Attn: Mr Donald Wong) (Fax No.: 2530 1368)